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CROP-WEATHER BULLETIN



In Cooperation with:
US Department of Commerce-NOAA
USDA Farm Service Agency
WV Cooperative Extension Service
WV Dept. of Agriculture

SOURCE: West Virginia Agricultural Statistics
RELEASED: September 19, 2006

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FOR WEEK OF: September 11 – September 17

GENERAL

Weather this week was typical for late summer to early fall. Temperatures were at, or just below normal for the period. The southern sections of the state as well as the Eastern Panhandle were the coolest with respect to their normal values. Average rainfall was above an inch again this week. A couple of isolated storms skewed the average. For example, Ripley had over 2.5 inches one day during the week and their weekly total was near 4.5 inches. Four other sites had over two inches, while the rest of the state was more near normal.

Temperatures: Huntington had the highest recorded temperature of 85 degrees. Marlinton had the lowest recorded temperature of 46 degrees.

Precipitation: Ripley had the highest recorded amount of precipitation with 4.57 inches. White Sulphur Springs had the lowest recorded amount of precipitation with 0.20 of an inch.

Number of days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4.0 days last week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
PERCENT				
Current Week	--	16	69	15
Last Week	1	26	70	3
Last Year	25	51	24	--

Farm activities included cutting hay, clipping pastures, harvesting corn, peaches and apples.

FRUIT

Apple conditions ranged from poor to excellent condition, but most orchards were reported in fair to mostly good condition. Apples were 26 percent harvested compared to 21 percent in 2005. The 5-yr average was not available. Peach conditions also ranged from poor to excellent, but most orchards were reported in fair to mostly good condition. Peach harvest was 95 percent complete, compared to 86 percent in 2005. The 5-yr average was not available.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
PERCENT					
Cattle & Calves	--	2	21	70	7
Sheep & Lambs	--	2	24	71	3
Apples	--	8	38	41	13
Peaches	--	7	37	44	12
Corn	1	12	28	53	6
Hay	2	9	28	57	4
Soybeans	--	18	33	48	1
Pasture	1	9	31	57	2

GRAINS

Corn conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but most fields were in good condition. Fields were 90 percent doughing, comparison data was not available. The crop was 72 percent in the dent stage, compared to 93 percent last year and 74 percent for the 5-yr average. Corn was 31 percent mature, compared to 38 percent in 2005. The 5-yr average was 32 percent. Corn was 4 percent harvested, compared to 2 percent in 2005 and 6 percent for the 5-yr average. Soybean conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most were in good condition. Soybeans were 41 percent dropping leaves compared to 64 percent in 2005. The 5-yr average was 56 percent. Soybeans were 1 percent harvested, compared to 1 percent in 2005 and 2 percent for the 5-yr average. Wheat was 3 percent planted, compared to 2 percent in 2005. The 5-yr average was 15 percent.

HAY

Hay conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but most fields were reported in good condition. Second-cutting was 90 percent complete, compared with 93 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-yr average. Third-cutting was 37 percent complete, compared to 34 percent complete in 2005. The 5-yr average was not available.

LIVESTOCK and PASTURE

Cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most herds were reported in good condition. Sheep conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most flocks were reported in good condition. Pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but most fields were reported in good condition.

HISTORICAL CROP PROGRESS

YEAR	CORN				SOYBEANS		WHEAT	HAY		APPLES	PEACHES
	DOUGHING	DENT.	MATURE	HARV.	DROP. LVS.	HARV.	PLANT.	2 nd CUT	3 rd CUT	HARV.	HARV.
2006	90	72	31	4	41	1	3	90	37	26	95
2005	N/A	93	38	2	64	1	2	93	34	21	86
5 YR AVG	N/A	74	32	6	56	2	15	92	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A-Not Available.

West Virginia
Field
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Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending September 17, 2006

Temperature					Precipitation				
Station	High	Low	Average	Weekly Departure	Week's Total	Norm	Since April 1st 2006	Same Week Last Year	Season Normal
--NORTHWEST-----									
WHEELING	83	57	67		1.66		17.20	17.73	
PARKERSBURG	83	53	67	-1	2.91	0.75	21.67	19.47	21.86
CRESTON	81	51	65		3.71		28.95	19.86	
--NORTHCENTRAL-----									
MORGANTOWN	79	53	66		1.87		21.96	14.05	
CLARKSBURG	83	54	66	0	2.30	0.77	22.90	20.30	23.06
BELINGTON	80	48	63		0.43		30.41	21.47	
WESTON	83	55	66		2.04		25.39	20.27	
--SOUTHWEST-----									
WILLIAMSON	83	58	69		0.84		29.66	25.88	
HUNTINGTON	85	55	68	0	1.36	0.63	29.75	22.08	21.51
CHARLESTON	84	51	66	-1	1.31	0.84	22.60	22.01	22.69
RIPLEY	82	52	66		4.57		28.32	20.90	
--CENTRAL-----									
TERRA ALTA	74	50	59		1.18		24.73	21.50	
ELKINS	78	51	63	-1	0.42	0.91	25.59	20.23	24.37
MARLINTON	73	46	57		0.60		19.29	19.30	
BECKLEY	73	47	60	-1	0.45	0.77	25.87	21.98	21.03
--SOUTHERN-----									
PINEVILLE	78	56	65		0.64		23.17	21.63	
BLUEFIELD	77	49	63	-4	0.50	0.77	26.30	20.96	20.74
WHITE SUL SP	82	50	64		0.20		19.29	19.30	
FLAT TOP	73	47	60		0.45		25.87	21.31	
--NORTHEASTERN-----									
MARTINSBURG	79	54	64	-4	0.97	0.84	22.17	11.98	19.46
ROMNEY	81	52	64		0.31		21.67	11.88	
PETERSBURG	80	51	64		0.26		19.41	12.61	

State Average Temperature 64
State Average Precipitation 1.32

Source: Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service, Charleston, WV

INTERNET ACCESS: All National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports are now available free of charge on the Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.